One of the enjoyable and challenging things about being the President of the Queensland Division of the AVA is that it presents you with many new opportunities and experiences. One such event occurred last week when Dr Laurie Dowling (Queensland Division Executive Officer) and I made a presentation to the Parliamentary Committee at its public hearing in relation to the Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. We presented feedback to the committee on cat registration and two aspects of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (National Recognition of Veterinary Registration and the compulsory provision of emergency contact numbers of registered veterinarians). It was a rather daunting experience but made less so by the great preparation work done by Laurie, Robert Hedlefs and the National Office.

The Queensland Division of the AVA is having its Strategic Planning weekend on September 14 and 15. It is a time to review the work done over the last year and plan for the coming three years. As this will be our executive officer’s first planning weekend, I am sure she is bringing a lot of exciting ideas with her for us to implement. We don’t have any representatives from the Central Queensland and Sunshine Coast branches so if you are in these areas and would like to have some input please contact the office.

The ASAVA conference is on the Gold Coast next week and as always will be a fantastic week. If you can’t make it to the Gold Coast, the ASAVA can come to you with their innovative Webinar program. This continuing education series runs fortnightly for most of the year with a wide ranging list of topics discussed. Best of all they are FREE to AVASA members – a great member benefit. The information is on the AVA website.

Kind Regards

Nigel Thomas

Hendra Virus – two recent articles on veterinarians attitude to Hendra virus vaccine and the key issues faced by private veterinarians in Hendra testing

1. Response of Australian veterinarians to the announcement of a Hendra virus vaccine becoming available.
   *Aust Vet J* 2013;91:328-31
   Mendez D, Büttner P, Speare R.
   Anton Breinl Centre for Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University, Townsville, 4810, Queensland, Australia. [Diana.Mendez@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Diana.Mendez@jcu.edu.au).
   DESIGN: A cross-sectional study of private veterinarians providing equine services in Queensland.  
   RESULTS: The study revealed that a majority of veterinarians would support the introduction of a Hendra virus (HeV) vaccine. Moreover, almost half of the respondents intended to make vaccination a prerequisite to horse patient presentation. However, participants also responded that a vaccine would not reduce the risk sufficiently to cease or downgrade their HeV management plan and infection control measures.  
   CONCLUSION: When devising promoting and marketing campaigns, government agencies and manufacturers should...
consider private veterinarians' intentions as a significant driver for the uptake of the HeV vaccine.


*Aust Vet J Mendez D, Judd J, Speare R. 2013;91:323-327*

School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences, Discipline of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University, Townsville, 4810, Queensland, Australia. *Diana.Mendez@jcu.edu.au.*

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify the perceived barriers to Hendra virus (HeV) management by private equine veterinarians in Queensland.

**DESIGN:** An exploratory qualitative study of private equine veterinarians registered and working in coastal Queensland.

**METHODS:** A questionnaire that included eight open-ended questions about the management of HeV was used in face-to-face in-depth interviews with 21 veterinary personnel working in equine or mixed private practice between Far North and South-East Queensland in 2009-10. The qualitative data was entered and analysed thematically using QSR's International's Nvivo 9 qualitative data analysis software.

**RESULTS:** This study revealed key issues associated with HeV testing:

1. inadequate knowledge of testing procedures and laboratory diagnostic pathways;
2. difficulty in accessing laboratory services;
3. responsibility for cost of collection and transport of specimen; and
4. the role of government.

Participants perceived these issues as reducing potential HeV case management efficiency.

**CONCLUSION:** Although HeV management plans have been modified in part since 2009-10, this study highlights the importance of considering the perspectives of private veterinary practitioners in any biosecurity protocols.

**Final policy review for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for horses from approved countries**

In September 2007, the Australian Government commissioned an inquiry into the circumstances that contributed to the outbreak of equine influenza in Australia in 2007 and the need for strengthened biosecurity procedures for quarantine management of imported horses. An Import Risk Analysis on risks associated with the importation of horses, donkeys and mules was completed in March 2010. This has now been reviewed. Please find the information below from the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regarding the policy review of the import risk analysis for horses from approved countries, which was sent to National Biosecurity Committee members, quite appropriately, on the horses’ birthday (1 August 2013).

The document is at the following web address:  <http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/memos>

Key proposals of the draft policy review were revision of biosecurity measures for contagious equine metritis, equine influenza, equine piroplasmosis and equine viral arteritis, and removal of biosecurity measures for horse pox and West Nile fever.

Considerable consultation and planning is required before revised biosecurity measures are implemented. Under best endeavours, DAFF will seek to implement—but cannot guarantee—the revised post-arrival quarantine conditions by September 2013. In the meantime, the current import conditions apply until further notification is received from DAFF.

**AVA input into public hearing**


The essence of the submission is to support the National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR) which will allow vets from other states to practise in Qld without registering (they will be deemed to be registered). This is an important step in vets being able to practise across the nation without re-registering in each state. Some states are yet to pass similar legislation. So, if you intend to practise in other states, check with that state’s registration requirements before agreeing to a position. The Qld AVA has raised concerns as to how NRVR would be implemented, as there is a degree of legal complexity that remains to be tested.

The other aspect of the bill related to the mandatory provision of emergency contact numbers so that the government can reach vets immediately to notify them of a range of biosecurity and workplace health and safety issues. AVA Qld strongly supports government communications with veterinarians as they are a valuable asset in being the eyes and ears for disease surveillance. However, AVA Qld is opposed to the punitive clauses in the proposed changes. These changes would mean that if a veterinarian’s email bounced, they could be fined up to $1000. In its submission, AVA has
proposed an alternative approach for government to achieve its aims, and for veterinarians to be informed.

**Sunshine Coast Golf Day**

Once again the Sunshine Coast Branch ran its annual Golf Day at Twin Waters on 9th August. This was the 18th event and although numbers were down on previous years, there was a good attendance to make it a most enjoyable day under a fantastic mild, sunny day. We had 47 golfers playing and the major winners were Johnathon Douglas (Lyppard) 1st men’s and Liz Leckie (Elanco) 1st lady. The organiser’s would like to thank all those who participated in this year’s event and the sponsors, especially Provet (Gold sponsor) and Investec (Silver sponsor). Next year, the 19th event will be held on Friday 8th August again at Twin Waters. Please keep this date aside in your calendar for next year.

**What’s new with AVA PetPEP? – Trevor Morrison**

The big event for AVA PetPEP this coming month will be the airing of a school visit on Channel 10’s Totally Wild television program. This will take place at 4pm on August 21 and will be incorporated with the *Animals in the Community* theme of Episode 93 Series 21. After airing, the show will also be available to watch from the Totally Wild website at [http://ten.com.au/watch-tv-episodes-online-totally-wild-video.htm](http://ten.com.au/watch-tv-episodes-online-totally-wild-video.htm)

After two successful years in Brisbane, Moo Baa Munch has announced that it will include an additional exhibition in Rockhampton from 28th – 30th August. This education initiative from Agforce will see local school students receive various presentations from agricultural experts, including our very own AVA PetPEP representatives from Capricorn Veterinary Clinic and Alma Street Veterinary Hospital, who will help spread the message about veterinary care and responsible pet ownership.

“AVA PetPEP at the 2013 Moo Baa Munch held at Corinda State School Farm. This year, the event will also include Rockhampton as an additional venue.”

**Deferral of self education tax**

AVA has been part of the Scrap the Cap Alliance since its inception. Together, the alliance’s 70 organisations have secured a major win in the fight against the introduction of a $2000 limit on self-education expense tax deductions. In last week’s economic statement the Government "decided to defer the introduction of the $2,000 cap on work related education expense deductions until 1 July 2015."  Read more:  - [http://www.ava.com.au/newsarticle/self-education-expenses-cap-deferred-one-year](http://www.ava.com.au/newsarticle/self-education-expenses-cap-deferred-one-year)

**ASAVA Women’s Networking Dinner**

There are limited tickets available to the ASAVA’s Women’s Networking Dinner next Tuesday 20th August, if you would like to attend (event not restricted to ASAVA members), please email Ria Ramone ria.tamone@ava.com.au or telephone on 02 9431 5055 to reserve your ticket.

Ticket prices are:
Women’s Networking Dinner

Calling all the women of ASAVA!

Our Women’s Networking Dinner is on again this year, after such a successful one in Perth last year.

The purpose is for the female vets of our association to foster friendships and build support networks within the veterinary industry, who are facing the same challenges of work and family balance. We will have Karen Phillips, an entertaining guest speaker who is sure to inspire you. Your ticket includes dinner and drinks. There will be lucky door prizes. Book your ticket for this special ladies-only event!

Date: Tuesday 20 August
Venue: Sofitel Broadbeach, 81 Surf Parade, Broadbeach. Guests to make their own way to this event.
Speaker: Karen Phillips
Time: 7:00 – 11:00pm
Dress: Smart Casual
Please bring your business card to go into the draw for lucky door prizes.

KAREN PHILLIPS
Professional Speaker & Innovation Facilitator

As a corporate communicator, brand initiatior, thrill seeker, author and professional speaker, Karen Phillips knows a thing or two about telling a good story.

With an expansive career in media, branding and communication, Karen has worked with some of the world’s most prestigious brands and identities including Bang & Olufsen, Aston Martin, Sofitel and Sunscreen. She is author of the best-selling book ‘Women’s Words of Wisdom, Power & Passion’ and founder of the innovative women’s global on-line community – womenswords.

A member of the Australian Society of Travel Writers, Karen comes with over 25 years experience working in newspapers, radio, TV and luxury lifestyle magazines and has interviewed such legends as Jane Fonda, Olivia Newton-John and HRH Prince Albert II of Monaco.

She has managed and hosted one of Australia’s longest running businesswomen’s clubs, now called Early Risers for over 18 years having featured over 500 international and Australian celebrities and icons as well as raise money for a myriad of charities. An avid supporter of women’s cancer organisations and other causes, Karen is close to her personal goal of raising over $1milion for charity.

Karen has become one of Australia’s most sought after professional presenters and trainers, with a primary focus on branding and communicating less and connecting more.

Between running her agency and her media and professional speaking commitments, she is dedicated to connecting people by planting seeds of inspiration through sharing heart to heart messages.

Having been honoured with the ‘Inspiring Woman Award’ at the 2012 International Women’s Day celebrations, Karen will share with you the messages, moments and wonderful insights from some of Australia’s leading lights and world celebrities that make them so successful.

Upcoming AVA Queensland events...

Early Bird registration ends... 31 August
AVA Central Queensland Branch Conference 2013

Friday 18 to Saturday 19 October 2013

Click here for brochure and registration details!!!
AVA Sunshine Coast Branch Dinner
Where: Buderim Tavern    When: Wednesday 25 September
Click here for full details and registration form

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AVA Queensland

BVP Conference
22 – 24 November 2013
Conference theme: Toxins and Nasties
Registration Brochure will be available later this month!!

BVP Barefoot Bowls
Where: Camp Hill Bowls Club
When: Sunday 20 October 2013
Full details coming soon!!

Heading for a hole in one! An uninvited player makes an appearance at the Sunshine Coast Golf Day.